

Good morning and thank you for allowing me to speak today.

*I'm Don Meix MUCC President*

On behalf of Michigan United Conservation Clubs' Board of Directors and MUCC's fifty thousand members, I urge your support of House Bill ~~492~~. 5912

The proposed legislation would protect the lands that Michigan's sportsmen pay to hunt and fish on. The protection offered by this bill would not stop the DNR's land consolidation process, but it would require the DNR to keep the same amount of land for hunting and fishing. If they sell one parcel of land utilized by hunters then they must buy another or retain an access easement to that parcel.

Over three quarters of a million people hunt and fish in Michigan each year. Those sportsmen and women spend over half a billion dollars each year in all areas of Michigan's economy. They buy gas, plane tickets, taxi rides, firearms, ammo, accessories, clothing, hotel rooms and much more.

By passing this bill the Michigan Legislature will be telling Michigan's sportsmen that they are an important part of Michigan's economy and that they appreciate the positive impact Michigan's sportsmen and women have on many of Michigan's communities. MUCC urges the committee to pass out House Bill 5912.